CHAPTER 61
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

[Prior to 7/1/83, DEQ Ch 16]
[Prior to 12/3/86, Water, Air and Waste Management[900]]

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

567—61.1 Rescinded, effective August 31, 1977.

567—61.2(455B) General considerations.

61.2(1) *Policy statement.* It shall be the policy of the commission to protect and enhance the quality of all the waters of the state. In the furtherance of this policy it will attempt to prevent and abate the pollution of all waters to the fullest extent possible consistent with statutory and technological limitations. This policy shall apply to all point and nonpoint sources of pollution.

These water quality standards establish selected criteria for certain present and future designated uses of the surface waters of the state. The standards establish the areas where these uses are to be protected and provide minimum criteria for waterways having nondesignated uses as well. Many surface waters are designated for more than one use. In these cases the more stringent criteria shall govern for each parameter.

Certain of the criteria are in narrative form without numeric limitations. In applying such narrative standards, decisions will be based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's methodology described in "Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses," (1985) and on the rationale contained in "Quality Criteria for Water," published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1977), as updated by supplemental Section 304 (of the Act) Ambient Water Quality Criteria documents. To provide human health criteria for parameters not having numerical values listed in 61.3(3) Table 1, the required criteria will be based on the rationale contained in these EPA criteria documents. The human health criterion considered will be the value associated with the consumption of fish flesh and a risk factor of 10^{-5} for carcinogenic parameters. For noncarcinogenic parameters, the recommended EPA criterion will be selected. For Class C water, the EPA criteria for fish and water consumption will be selected using the same considerations for carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic parameters as noted above.

All methods of sample collection, preservation, and analysis used in applying any of the rules in these standards shall be in accord with those prescribed in 567—Chapter 63.

61.2(2) *Antidegradation policy.* It is the policy of the state of Iowa that:

a. Existing surface water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses will be maintained and protected.

b. Chemical integrity: For those water bodies where water quality significantly exceeds levels necessary to protect existing uses and the waters designated as high quality in 61.3(5)*"e,"* that water quality will be maintained at or above existing quality, except when it is determined by the environmental protection commission after public hearing and after intergovernmental coordination and public participation provisions noted in the continuing planning process that there is need to allow a lower chemical quality because of necessary and justifiable economic and social development in the area. The state shall ensure adequate chemical quality to fully protect existing uses.

(1) Bear Creek, mouth in Winneshiek County and tributary to the Upper Iowa River.

(2) Bloody Run, mouth in Clayton County and tributary to the Mississippi River.

(3) Catfish Creek from Swiss Valley Park in Dubuque County to its source.

(4) Unnamed Creek known locally as Coldwater Creek with mouth in Winneshiek County and tributary to the Upper Iowa River.

(5) Fenchel Creek, mouth to Richmond Springs, in Delaware County and tributary to the Maquoketa River.

(6) Odell Branch (aka Fountain Spring Creek), mouth (section 10, T90N, R4W, Delaware County), tributary to Elk Creek, which is tributary to the Turkey River to west line of section 9, T90N, R4W, Delaware County.

(7) Iowa Great Lakes chain of lakes in Dickinson County, including West Lake Okoboji, Spirit Lake, East Lake Okoboji, Minnewashta Lake, Upper Gar Lake, and Lower Gar Lake.

(8) North Bear Creek, with mouth in Winneshiek County and tributary to Bear Creek, listed as number 1 in this listing.

(9) North Cedar Creek, with mouth in Clayton County and tributary to Sny Magill Creek.

(10) Sny Magill Creek, with mouth in Clayton County and tributary to the Mississippi River.

(11) Turkey River, from the point where it is joined by the Volga River in Clayton County to Vernon Springs in Howard County.

(12) Waterloo Creek, with mouth in Allamakee County and tributary to the Upper Iowa River.

(13) Maquoketa River, from confluence with South Fork Maquoketa River (section 16, T90N, R6W, Delaware County) to Highway 3 (north line of section 24, T91N, R7W, Fayette County).

(14) Spring Branch, mouth (section 10, T88N, R5W, Delaware County) to spring source (section 35, T89N, R5W, Delaware County).

(15) Little Turkey River, Clayton-Delaware County line to south line of section 11, T90N, R3W, Delaware County.

(16) Middle Fork Little Maquoketa River (aka Bankston Creek), west line of section 31, T90N, R1E to north line of section 33, T90N, R1W, Dubuque County.

(17) Brush Creek, north line of section 23, T85N, R3E to north line of section 1, T85N, R3E, Jackson County.

(18) Dalton Lake — Jackson County.

(19) Little Mill Creek, mouth (Jackson County) to west line of section 29, T86N, R4E, Jackson County.

(20) Mill Creek (aka Big Mill Creek), from confluence with Little Mill Creek in section 13, T86N, R4E, Jackson County, to confluence with Unnamed Creek, section 1, T86N, R3E, Jackson County.

(21) Unnamed Creek (tributary to Mill Creek), mouth (section 1, T86N, R3E, Jackson County) to west line of section 1, T86N, R3E, Jackson County.

(22) Unnamed Creek (aka South Fork Big Mill), tributary to Mill Creek, from mouth (section 8, T86N, R4E, Jackson County) to west line of section 17, T86N, R4E, Jackson County.

(23) Clear Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to west line of section 25, T99N, R4W, Allamakee County.

(24) French Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to east line of section 23, T99N, R5W, Allamakee County.

(25) Hickory Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to south line of section 28, T96N, R5W, Allamakee County.

(26) Little Paint Creek, mouth to north line of section 30, T97N, R3W, Allamakee County.

(27) Paint Creek, from confluence with Little Paint Creek to road crossing in section 18, T97N, R4W, Allamakee County.

(28) Patterson Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to east line of section 3, T98N, R6W, Allamakee County.

(29) Silver Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to south line of section 31, T99N, R5W, Allamakee County.

(30) Village Creek, mouth (Allamakee County) to west line of section 19, T98N, R4W, Allamakee County.

(31) Wexford Creek, mouth to west line of section 25, T98N, R3W, Allamakee County.

(32) Buck Creek, mouth (Clayton County) to west line of section 9, T93N, R3W, Clayton County.

(33) Ensign Creek (aka Ensign Hollow), mouth (section 28, T92N, R6W, Clayton County) to spring source (section 29, T92N, R6W, Clayton County).

(34) South Cedar Creek (aka Cedar Creek), mouth (Clayton County) to north line of section 7, T92N, R3W, Clayton County.

(35) Bear Creek, mouth (Fayette County) to west line of section 6, T92N, R7W, Fayette County.

(36) Unnamed Creek (aka Glover's Creek), mouth to west line of section 15, T94N, R8W, Fayette County.

(37) Grannis Creek, mouth to west line of section 36, T93N, R8W, Fayette County.

(38) Mink Creek, mouth to west line of section 15, T93N, R7W, Fayette County.

(39) Otter Creek, mouth (Fayette County) to confluence with Unnamed Creek (aka Glover's Creek) in section 22, T94N, R8W, Fayette County.

(40) Nichols Creek (aka Bigalk Creek), mouth (section 18, T100N, R10W, Winneshiek County) to west line of section 23, T100N, R11W, Howard County.

(41) Spring Creek, mouth (Mitchell County) to north line of section 8, T97N, R16W, Mitchell County.

(42) Turtle Creek, mouth (Mitchell County) to east line of section 7, T99N, R17W, Mitchell County.

(43) Wapsipinicon River, from the town of McIntire to north line of section 20, T99N, R15W, Mitchell County.

(44) Bohemian Creek, mouth (Winneshiek County) to Howard County Road V58 (west line of section 2, T97N, R11W, Howard County).

(45) Coon Creek, mouth (Winneshiek County) to road crossing in section 13, T98N, R7W, Winneshiek County.

(46) Smith Creek (aka Trout River), mouth to south line of section 33, T98N, R7W, Winneshiek County.

(47) Unnamed Creek (aka Trout Run), mouth to south line of section 27, T98N, R8W, Winneshiek County.

(48) Twin Springs Creek, mouth to springs in Twin Springs Park in section 20, T98N, R8W, Winneshiek County.

(49) Canoe Creek (aka West Canoe Creek), from Winneshiek County Road W38 to west line of section 8, T99N, R8W, Winneshiek County.

c. Standards and restrictions more stringent than those applied to other waters may be applied by the commission to those waters listed below when it is determined that such more stringent standards and restrictions are necessary to fully maintain water quality at existing levels.

West Lake Okoboji in Dickinson County.

d. The Mississippi River and the Missouri River do not meet the criteria of 61.2(2)*"c"* but nevertheless constitute waters of exceptional state and national significance. Water quality management decisions will be made in consideration of the exceptional value of the resource.

e. In furtherance of the policy stated in 61.2(2)*"b,"* there shall be achieved the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for all new and existing point sources, and feasible management and regulatory programs pursuant to Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for nonpoint sources, both existing and proposed.

f. Physical and biological integrity: The waters designated as high-quality resource waters in 61.3(5)*"e"* will receive protection of existing uses through maintaining water quality levels necessary to fully protect existing uses or improve water quality to levels necessary to meet the designated use criterion in Tables 1, 2 and 3 and at preserving or enhancing the physical and biological integrity of these waters. This involves the protection of such features of the water body as channel alignment, bed characteristics, water velocity, aquatic habitat, and the type, distribution and abundance of existing aquatic species.

g. It is the intent of the antidegradation policy to protect and maintain the existing physical, biological, and chemical integrity of all waters of the state. Consistency with Iowa's water quality standards requires that any proposed activity modifying the existing physical, biological, or chemical integrity of a water of the state shall not adversely impact these resource attributes, either on an individual or cumulative basis. An adverse impact shall refer to the loss of or irreparable damage to the aquatic, semiaquatic or wildlife habitat or population, or a modification to the water body that would cause an overall degradation to the aquatic or wildlife population and diversity. The fish and wildlife division of the department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall serve as consultants to the department for assessing impacts. Exceptions to the preceding will be allowed only if full mitigation is provided by the applicant and approved by the department.

For those waters of the state designated as high quality or high quality resource waters and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, any proposed activity that will adversely impact the existing physical, chemical, or biological integrity of that water will not be consistent with Iowa's water quality standards. Mitigation will not be allowed except in highly unusual situations where no other project alternatives exist. In these cases, full mitigation must be provided by the applicant and approved by the department.

h. This policy shall be applied in conjunction with water quality certification review pursuant to Section 401 of the Act. In the event that activities are specifically exempted from flood plain development permits or any other permits issued by this department in 567—Chapters 70, 71, and 72, the activity will be considered consistent with this policy. Other activities not otherwise exempted will be subject to 567—Chapters 70, 71, and 72 and this policy. The repair and maintenance of a drainage district ditch as defined in 567—70.2(455B,481A) will not be considered a violation of the antidegradation policy for the purpose of implementing Title IV of these rules. United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) nationwide permits 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 as well as Corps regional permits 7, 33, and 34 as promulgated March 19, 2007, are certified pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act subject to the following Corps regional conditions and the state water quality conditions:

(1) Side slopes of a newly constructed channel will be no steeper than 2:1 and planted to permanent, perennial, native vegetation if not armored.

(2) Nationwide permits with mitigation may require recording of the nationwide permit and pertinent drawings with the registrar of deeds or other appropriate official charged with the responsibility for maintaining records of title to, or interest in, real property and may also require the permittee to provide proof of that recording to the Corps.

(3) Mitigation shall be scheduled prior to, or concurrent with, the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

(4) For discharges of dredged or fill material resulting in the permanent loss of more than 1/10 acre of waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands), a compensatory mitigation plan to offset those losses will be required. In addition, a preconstruction notice to the Corps of Engineers in accordance with general condition 27 will be required.

(5) For newly constructed channels through areas that are unvegetated, native grass filter strips or a riparian buffer with native trees or shrubs a minimum of 35 feet wide from the top of the bank must be planted along both sides of the new channel. A survival rate of 80 percent of desirable species shall be achieved within three years of establishment of the buffer strip.

(6) For single-family residences authorized under nationwide permit 29, the permanent loss of waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands) must not exceed 1/4 acre.

(7) For nationwide permit 46, the discharge of dredged or fill material into ditches that would sever the jurisdiction of an upstream water of the United States from a downstream water of the United States is not allowed.

(8) For projects that impact fens, bogs, seeps, or sedge meadows, an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required (Iowa Section 401 Water Quality Certification condition).

(9) For nationwide permits when the Corps' district engineer has issued a waiver to allow the permittee to exceed the limits of the nationwide permit, an individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required (Iowa Section 401 Water Quality Certification condition). Written verification by the Corps or 401 certification by the state is required for activities covered by these permits as required by the nationwide permit or the Corps, and the activities are allowed subject to the terms and conditions of the nationwide and regional permits. The department will maintain and periodically update a guidance document listing special waters of concern. This document will be provided to the Corps for use in determining whether preconstruction notices should be provided to the department and other interested parties prior to taking action on applications for projects that would normally be covered by a nationwide or regional permit and not require preconstruction notice under nationwide permit conditions.

61.2(3) *Minimum treatment required*. All wastes discharged to the waters of the state must be of such quality that the discharge will not cause the narrative or numeric criteria limitations to be exceeded. Where the receiving waters provide sufficient assimilative capacity that the water quality standards are not the limiting factor, all point source wastes shall receive treatment in compliance with minimum effluent standards as adopted in rules by the department.

There are numerous parameters of water quality associated with nonpoint source runoff which are of significance to the designated water uses specified in the general and specific designations in 61.3(455B), but which are not delineated. It shall be the intent of these standards that the limits on such nonpoint source related parameters when adopted shall be those that can be achieved by best management practices as defined in the course of the continuing planning process from time to time. Existing water quality and nonpoint source runoff control technology will be evaluated in the course of the Iowa continuing planning process, and best management practices and limitations on specific water quality parameters will be reviewed and revised from time to time to ensure that the designated water uses and water quality enhancement goals are met.